

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20, 22, 24, 25, 27-31 and 34-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 20 is amended, and claim 26 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 25-28, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,267 to Ma (hereinafter "Ma"). Claim 26 has been cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method for fixing a flat panel display in a monitor. The method includes aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, comprising aligning at least one aligning guide provided on the fixing frame with at least one corresponding guide portion provided on the back cover, wherein the at least one guide portion is provided with an aligning groove that receives the at least one aligning guide so as to align the fixing frame and the back cover, and thereafter simultaneously coupling the aligned display panel and fixing frame to the back cover using a fastener, the fastener being inserted from a forward side of the display panel and extending therethrough and into the back cover. The method also includes thereafter coupling a front cover to the back cover having the display panel and fixing frame coupled thereto, comprising engaging at least one hook and at least one corresponding hook

receiving portion so as to couple the back cover and the front cover, wherein a strength of the front cover is less than a strength of the back cover, and the at least one hook is bent so as to define insertion ends that are inserted into the at least one hook receiving portion. The front cover comprises a front portion of the housing for the display panel which includes an opening through which an image on the display panel is displayed. Ma neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination of features.

Ma discloses in Figure 1 (referred to in previous Office Actions) an LCD module including a display unit A, a bottom cover B, and a top cover C. To assemble the LCD module, the display unit A is fastened to the bottom cover B using a first set of screws, and then the top cover C is fastened to the bottom cover B using a second set of screws. Applicant maintains the position that Ma's notebook computer, LCD module and associated assembly system are not properly compared to the claimed fixing method.

However, even if improperly compared, Ma still neither discloses nor suggests a fixing frame aligned with the display unit A, nor that the display unit A and such a fixing frame are simultaneously coupled to the bottom cover B using a fastener that is inserted from a forward side of the display unit A and extending therethrough into the bottom cover B. Rather, the second set of screws extends through the top cover C into the bottom cover B. Contrary to what is asserted in the Office Action, Ma very clearly teaches away from a reversal in screw insertion direction, as the screws must necessarily be accessible to facilitate removal of the covers

B and C for maintenance. Such a reversal would make removal of the covers B and C more complex.

Further, Applicant maintains the position that Ma neither discloses nor suggests any type of aligning guide and/or guide portion, as recited in independent claim 20. Similarly, Ma neither discloses nor suggests coupling the top cover C to the bottom cover B by engaging a hook and a hook receiving portion, as recited in independent claim 20, nor that such a hook is bent as specifically recited in independent claim 20. As the mating surfaces are shown already mated/obscured, the assumption that Ma's system includes an aligning guide and/or guide portion, and/or hooks and hook receiving portions, requires the use of impermissible hindsight gleaned from Applicant's own disclosure.

Additionally, independent claim 20 now requires that the front cover comprise a front portion of the housing for the display panel which includes an opening through which an image on the display panel is displayed. The Office Action suggests that the frame 3 and protective cover 2 disclosed by Ma are comparable to the front and back covers, respectively, recited in independent claim 20. However, the frame 3 disclosed by Ma includes a groove on which a display panel may be mounted, but not an opening for displaying an image produced by a display panel, as recited in independent claim 20.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is not anticipated by Ma, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ma should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25, 27, 28, 34 and 35 are allowable at least for the reasons set

forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 20 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Figure 1 of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,550 to Ohgami et al. (hereinafter "Ohgami"). Claim 26 has been cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

The features of independent claim 20 have been set forth above. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests each of the features of independent claim 20, or the claimed combination of features. Further Ohgami fails to overcome the deficiencies of Figure 1 of the present application.

Figure 1 of the present application discloses a monitor 1 including an LCD module 4 positioned between front and back covers 5 and 2, and a fixing frame 3 that fixes a position of the LCD module 4. A first screw group 6 couples the LCD module 4 and the fixing frame 3, a second screw group 7 is used to then couple the assembled LCD module 4/fixing frame 3 to the front cover 5, and a third screw group 8 is then used to couple the back cover 2 to the front cover 5. In the monitor 1 shown in Figure 1 of the present application, the assembled LCD module 4/fixing frame 3 are aligned with the front cover 5. In contrast, independent claim 20 requires that the display panel and fixing frame be aligned and then simultaneously coupled to the back cover, so that the majority of the weight of the display panel is borne by the back cover.

Further, Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests such a coupling using a fastener inserted in the specific manner recited in independent claim 20.

Ohgami discloses a portable computer 1 including a display device 3 supported on a main body 2. The display device includes a casing 15 formed by inserting a hook 25 into a receiving portion 26 formed in a display mask 21 to couple the display mask 21 to a display cover 20. Ohgami is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of hooks and receiving portions as a coupling mechanism, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Figure 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Figure 1 of the present application and Ohgami should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25 and 27-31 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ma. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 36 is allowable over Ma at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Further, it would not have been obvious to modify the LCD module disclosed by Ma in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 is

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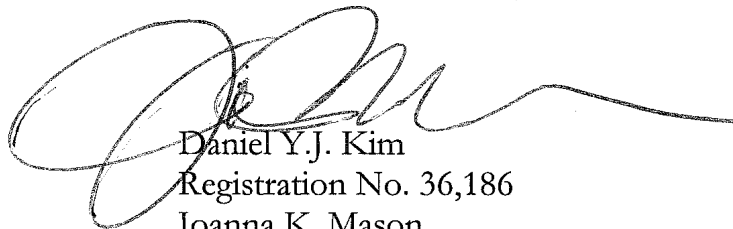
allowable over Ma, and thus the rejection of claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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